Application No.: 09/842,908 Docket No.: 2091-0240P

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-15 and 25-27, drawn to an image processing apparatus and method for obtaining processed image data by carrying out tone correction processing on image data obtained by a digital camera, classified in class 348, subclass 223.1; and

Group II, claims 16-24, drawn to a tone conversion table generation method for generating tone conversion tables used at the time of obtaining processed image data obtained by a digital camera, classified in class 382, subclass 274..

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-15 and 25-27.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Carolyn T. Baumgardner, Registration No 41,345 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

2 MKM/CTB/mpe

Application No.: 09/842,908 Docket No.: 2091-0240P

Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.

Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Our check in the amount of \$120.00 covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1) is enclosed.

Dated: May 18, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

Michael K. Mutter Registration No.: 29,680

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Rd Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant